(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to interlink several places of Madhya Pradesh such as Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore etc., with air services; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to link Gwalior with air services which is a place of tourism and historical importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present, scheduled air services are available to/from Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur and Khajuraho in the State of Madhya Pradesh. NACIL, Alliance Air, Jet Airways, JetLite and Kingfisher Airlines are operating to/from Madhya Pradesh. Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Construction work at airports

735. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction works of New Delhi and Mumbai Airports is to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has already been abnormally delayed; and

(c) if so, the final date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Construction of airport development projects at Mumbai and New Delhi airports are as per schedule. The Phase-I of the construction work is scheduled to be completed by March 2010 in the case of IGI Airport, New Delhi and by December 2012 in the case of CSI Airport, Mumbai.

Airport at Guntur

736. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up an airport in the vicinity of Guntur district especially in Chilakaluri Peta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such airport will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Setting up of new airports/upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airlines operators, commercial viability etc. Airports Authority of India (AAI), from time to time, takes initiative in this regard, keeping in view the above factors, either with its own resources or with the participation of the concerned State Governments through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them.

Airport in BTAD

737. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the formalities has been completed by the authority for early completion of airport in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD);

(b) if so, tentative period for its completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not to make any arrangement for the airport in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Pre-feasibility study conducted by AAI on a site identified by Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) did not find the site suitable for construction of an airport. BTC would identify the alternate site.

Working of DGCA

738. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is under staffed, under paid and over worked which has led to many incidents of imbroglio in air journeys and risk to lives of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of air journeys disrupted during last one year for man made reasons; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the working of DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Though Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is facing manpower constraints, it is not true that this has led to any incidents or risk to lives of passengers.

(c) DGCA continues to effectively enforce safety and regulatory standards on all airlines/operators without compromising passenger safety. While Government takes action on continuous basis for filling up the vacant posts, proposal for revival of lapsed vacancies are taken up on need basis.

Staff strength of DGCA

739. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Federal Aviation Administration has proposed to re-assess the precarious staff strength at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);